Viking Saga

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Northwest High School
Celebrating 50 Years
Grand Island, Nebraska
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Duck Dynasty dispute shows shift in society

Laura Springer
Editor-in-Chief

Small, yellow, feathery: says, "quack, quack". These are traits most people would associate with the word "duck". But now, if I say "dynasty", the word "duck" takes on a new meaning. In 2012 A&E introduced a new show, *Duck Dynasty*. It features a family living in the Southern United States that make duck calls for a living. Unlike most reality shows, *Duck Dynasty* shows the Robertson family how they really are. In December, the head of the family, Phil Robertson, was interviewed and asked his personal opinions. Due to his answers, he was suspended from the show. So what angered A&E so much that they would suspend him from a highly viewed show? Politics.

In this age, political correctness is becoming an essential in society. If you say something that could offend someone, you are considered racist or sexist. It seems that being politically correct is more important than just being able to respect someone's opinion.

The Robertsons are a very religious family, as are many families in the southern United States. Because Phil quoted the bible and shared his personal beliefs, he was viciously attacked. He never talked down or claimed he hated a certain group of people; he simply shared what he believed.

Movements to support various minority groups have been very successful and minority rights have greatly increased. America should be fair and not discriminate due to personal beliefs; but, that does not mean that everyone must agree with another person's beliefs.

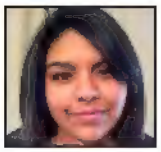
Something that has been misinterpreted is that if you don't agree with someone's beliefs, then you hate them and can't respect them. This is a major problem in today's society. We have lost track of how to respect each other's opinions. Because of this, people whose beliefs don't agree with new trends are attacked. For example, we live in a country that was founded on religion. Our founding fathers were largely Christian, but they made sure that all religions would be tolerated. Currently, expressing religion has become a no-no because it may offend someone who is not religious. But have they considered the fact that this offends religious people? In a country with freedom of religion, you should be able to express your religion without being politically correct.

Yes, I believe that people should be kind and respect each other. But there is a difference between civilly sharing your opinion and pushing it down someone's throat.

Something I believe that goes hand in hand with having an opinion is being informed. Being informed can include researching topics, getting updates from congressmen, and looking at both sides of an issue. It's easier to understand and respect other's opinions once you know both sides of the story.

Our world will never be perfect. A perfect world would defeat the purpose of living life and learning as we go. Keeping this in mind, being politically correct all the time will never get us anywhere. Instead, you just have a bunch of people trying not to step on other people's toes and hiding how they really feel. We live in America, a place where you not only have the right of free speech, but also the right to a life full of happiness. People need to start doing more of what makes them happy, and worry less about what everyone else thinks. When asked how you feel, speak the truth. But remember, you're not speaking to hurt someone else. You are speaking to stay true to yourself.

Relationships: the good, the bad... and the lovely



Bibiana Luevano
Staff Writer

Do you ever find yourself wondering how it could be if you ever found yourself trapped within a relationship? The suffocating hold of your partner following you everywhere you go, the responsibility of keeping said person entertained for however long possible, and the requirement to always make them believe that they are the only person on your mind. Relationships, on most levels, are ridiculous.

People end up just dating for the fun of it, or they feel as if they will be the odd man out if they don't have a companion on the romantic level.

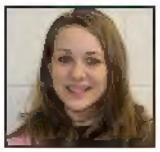
Truth is, relationships are hard work. They are no walk in the park and must contain a mutual agreement between the two daters.

Some people can be overbearing, and it is commonly heard of partners becoming jealous and overprotective, or otherwise a whiner and clingy. Once you commit yourself to a relationship, your sense of independence may diminish, as you in turn, must include your partner in a large part of what you do. Partners can be jealous, obsessive, controlling, or even the ever popular gold digger. Besides, when you begin a relationship, a monumental amount of factors go into play. High school couples can be oh-so-very dramatic.

It may be fun and exciting to be going out with the crush of your dreams, but whose to say that you won't run into trouble if another person tries to steal your "love"? Seriously, the theatrics that come into play can be found to be astronomical and borderline unwanted.

High-school is not the end of the line for students' love lives, and they very well shouldn't feel that dating is a must.

Just look at how high-school-aged Romeo and Juliet ended up: happily-never-after...



Jennifer Clement
Staff Writer

Relationships. Some people think they are a horrible trap that leads to commitment or heartbreak.

Yes, there are some horrible things that come from unhealthy relationships, but if it is strong and healthy, there can be some good things.

When you are in a good relationship, you do not always have to be worried about how you look everyday. Your significant other should like you for your personality and what is on the inside; they don't expect you to dress nice everyday, or wear makeup. They should love you for you.

Another good thing is that you can talk to them about anything and they will always be there to hear what you have to say. If you just had a bad day, you can call or text them and tell them what happened. Even if they don't understand what's happening, they will listen and do their best to help you.

Spending time with them is always fun. You can go to the movies or out to dinner and enjoy yourselves. You can even simply just stay home and watch T.V. When you are with them, you can be happy and not stressed. Bonding time builds up a strong relationship.

Relationships can be a wonderful thing. Some people think they are a waste of time and will never last, but that's not always the case.

Some relationships do last for a while. I am not saying that you will always be happy with them, or that after high school you will get married and live happily ever after and the two of you will ride deep into the sunset.

But sometimes, things do end better than hoped. That is why I think relationships can be good.

Viking Saga

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Many factors involved in "high school drama"

Reiley Hillman
Staff Writer

Drama, a part of every teenager's life, can have serious effects on mental health. The effects of drama can be drastic; they can range from self-harm to depression to low self-esteem. Drama, bullying, and rumors can all ruin someone's life in the blink of an eye. It can affect everyone. People can be fine one day, but hear something about themselves and have people harass them the next day and their esteem can be demolished in such a way that it leads to drastic outcomes of depression, low self-esteem, eating disorders, and self-harm. These can be caused by bullying, backstabbing, rumors, and relationships.

Drama isn't just "he-said-she-said stuff." It can be an abusive relationship, a friend losing a loved one and someone making fun of them, a freshman picked on by another freshman and beaten until he can't see straight, a sophomore who has an abusive parent, always feeling like they are never good enough. Those are examples of why people have low self-esteem.

"Well, I think we all have self-esteem issues. And it's not just kids, it's teachers and administrators as well; we all have self esteem issues. I think we all want to be loved. And we all get hurt," relayed counselor Linda Kieselhorst.

Some people who get hurt by someone's words can live the rest of their lives hating themselves and hurting themselves and others. Kieselhorst said students fight simply because "they're hurt, somebody challenges them, somebody says something about their sister; I just think it comes down to their feelings being hurt and sometimes they're afraid too. They're afraid that if they don't fight back then they're going to be wimps."

All students handle drama in their own ways: some brush it off, others blame themselves, while others blame anyone but themselves. Junior Alana Wedige is one who has never been afraid to be herself.

"It was very hard to deal with [the bullying] but I learned how to stand up for myself without becoming a bully," said Wedige.

Any way it's taken, bullying should not be taken lightly. People will go to crazy lengths in order to stop what's happening, some by even taking their own life.

Being talked about with disrespect while not being present when it happens and finding out about it later is the worst feeling in the world and most everyone has experienced it. It can make anyone feel like dirt, like "I'm not important enough" or someone is just looking for attention. If someone is already depressed, it can cause them to continue to dig their grave and they will never be able to get better. All through life, even at a young age, a piece of advice given is, "just ignore it, it will go away on its own"; but for some people it can't. Drama can destroy a person within days. It hurts. Nothing good can come from it and it's everyone's fault. Even the ones who didn't contribute to the problem could at least help with finding a solution. Some people are more obvious about themselves and others just want to hide. People who suffer from the effects need help. Reassurance that things will get better could turn someone's life around. But sometimes no matter how hard the people try they need to find it in themselves to change.

> ***"I think we all have self-esteem issues. And it's not just kids, it's teachers and administrators as well; we all have self esteem issues. I think we all want to be loved. And we all get hurt." - Guidance Counselor Linda Kieselhorst***

"Just listen, some people just need to talk and sometimes there's nothing you can do. Most of the time all we can encourage to do is have people take care of themselves," advises Kieselhorst.

Going unnoticed in high school is not an option. Kieselhorst said, "I feel sad. It makes me very sad, especially those that don't seem to learn from the first time. There are those that are isolated in this building--they have no friends, or they've had friends and they've been put down; I don't know if they have enough confidence in themselves to get new friends. Those are the ones I feel saddest for, the ones who sit by themselves in the lunch room, in class, and in the hallway. They don't say anything to anybody, no one says anything to them. We can all get through life with our friends or with support, maybe you don't have a lot of friends but you have teachers you can talk to, or parents or whatever, but the kids I feel saddest for are the ones who don't have any support. I think Northwest students need to take a look around in their classes and in the hallways and they'll see those people."

Often drama happens because of some rumor spread around that "so and so wants to fight what's her name", and they may not even know each other.

"So often drama involves third parties, and it's not even true, difference is fact and gossip. That's what I mean by a third party, I think we try to determine 'is this gossip? Or is this fact?' And if it is fact we can choose to confront the person if we want to," explained Kieselhorst.

Sometimes the perpetrator is more personal.

"Sometimes the toughest bully can be ourselves, and it's because of the world around us and what people say to us. We latch onto those words like they define us, but we need to learn to hold strong to the definitions we give ourselves," said Wedige.

Maybe students could learn something about those who can stand up for themselves like Wedige, or notice those around them, like Kieselhorst suggests. Many students and staff don't want to let people suffer in silence. They would rather make a change in someone's life, because it could be saved.

History of the Month

January 1, 1908- New York City hosted the first annual dropping of the ball at midnight.
January 14, 1973- The Miami Dolphins win the Super Bowl, becoming the first undefeated team ever in the NFL.
January 16, 1547- Ivan the Terrible crowns himself the first czar of Russia
January 20, 1981- Ronald Regan, age 69, becomes the oldest person to become a US president.
January 22, 1973- Abortion is legalized in the court case *Wade v. Roe*.
January 28, 1986- The space shuttle Challenger broke apart 73 seconds after takeoff, killing everyone aboard.

Laura Springer
Editor-in-Chief

Interested in getting student discounts around town? Ask Mr. Gibson for a Student ID!

The "Typical Teenager"

Laura Springer
Editor in Chief

A twitter account, @CommonWhiteGirl, started a new profile for "typical" teenage girls. Almost instantly, the phrases "common white girl" and "typical white girl" could be heard across the United States.

Every day, things that many girls enjoy, such as drinking Starbucks and wearing Ugg boots and yoga pants, have become an ongoing joke in society. Girls don't do these things because it's "mainstream" or "typical." They do it because they simply like it. They wear yoga pants because they're comfortable and they drink Starbucks because they think it tastes good. Just because girls enjoy these things, it doesn't mean they are "typical girls."

Many also play sports, watch action movies, and go hunting. Senior Kenzie Burnham is one of these girls that could easily be labeled "common", but isn't.

"I don't think the 'common white girl' works out and lifts weights everyday. But, I do love Starbucks and Victoria's Secret; it just makes me happy and puts me in a better mood."

Another factor into this stereotype is a new MTV show called *Girl Code*. Many people have heard of (opposite), *Guy Code*, which is also an MTV show. Both shows feature girls and guys that basically just talk about a given topic.

Their views and reactions to these certain topics could be considered pretty typical for most teenage guys and girls. Therefore, *Guy Code*, like *Girl Code*, is a pretty accurate representation of the majority of teenage guys. Senior Tyler Garrett describes Guy Code as not just a television show, but an actual real life code for guys.

"Guy Code allows us to avoid as much drama as possible. Knowing Guy Code and following the rules will help every guy deal with drama while allowing him to have good times with his friends."

But not every boy and girl has bought into the idea of "being typical". There are teens out there who have their own unique personality and aren't afraid to show it. They take pride in standing out from the crowd and enjoy the feeling of being free from controversial bonds of social cliques. Each of these teens have their own personal preferences, and, the biggest shocker of all...they may even balk at the thought of caffeine, thus disproving the assumption that every girl adores Starbucks.

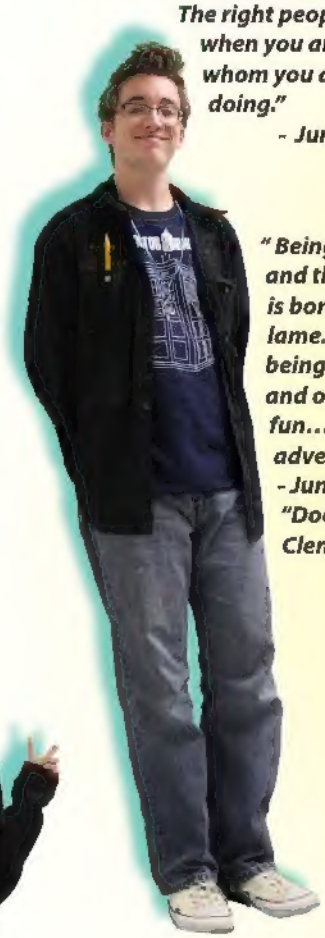
In this world of "uncommon teens," there is a smattering of bright colors and a hint of adventure roaming through the halls in the school, whether it is expressed by the student's taste in fashion, or preference in an activity that deals with something other than mere window shopping.

Students such as these prove that the "common teenager" label does not apply to everyone, and must not be used so flippantly. There is a diversity among the student body, and Northwest is a proud example of that simple statement.

Bibiana Luevano
Staff Writer

"I would describe myself as someone who's never been afraid to be themself. I was always taught to accept and enjoy the differences people have, but I was also taught to know what I believe in and stand firm on it. However, what I believe is right for me, doesn't always match up with what the normal teenager thinks is right for them. I don't think you should worry about making other people happy. The right people will be happy when you are happy with whom you are and what you're doing."

- Junior Alanna Wedige



" Being normal and the same is boring and lame. While being different and odd is fun... and adventurous!"

- Junior "Doctor" Tyler Clement

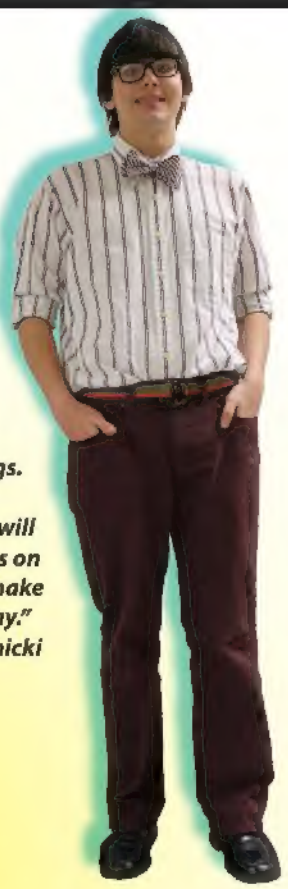
I'm short and I'm really energetic. I laugh too loud and I eat. A lot. But I love me. God made me who I am. I would rather embrace my geekyness and have fun then torture myself trying to be something I'm not.

May the force be with you!

- Junior Hannah Post

I've always found myself very creative and unique, which makes me different from everyone else. There are both positive aspects, like being admired for being who you are, and negative aspects, like being stared at and insulted. For me, difference may come with a price, but I will never change who I am.

- Junior Janai Reynoldson



"I think what makes me feel like I'm an "uncommon teen" is that I usually am very aware of other's feelings. I am not going to say something that I think will hurt someone's feelings on purpose. I also like to make sure I look nice everyday."
- Junior Elliot Kosmicki

"I'm pretty involved... I'm in National Honor Society, mock trial, speech team, marching and concert band, 14 Karat Gold, one act, Hall County 4-H... I teach creative movement tap ballet and hip hop at the YWCA school of dance... It sounds more chaotic than it actually is, although sometimes when activities conflict it starts to stress me out."
- Senior Julie Bruns

Words of wisdom from someone who has been there

"There's nothing wrong with being a loser, it just depends on how good you are at being one" -Billy Joe Armstrong

Kyler Janecek
Staff Critic

Let's take a trip down memory lane for a second. Do you remember back in elementary and middle school when everyone was judged based on what social group they belonged to? Everyone had their own cliques and shunned everyone outside of their own?

Now you were one of two kinds of people. Either you were one of the people who had their own cliques, or you were an outsider. Maybe you were the new kid from out of town, or even out of state. Maybe you had less money than other people, had something different about you, or just didn't even want to fit in. In Elementary school, this wasn't really an issue. It's in Middle School and the first couple years of High School that the bullying problem really took off.

If you were ever bullied, made fun of, picked on, hurt by anyone, or ever just felt out of place, you'll probably understand where I'm coming from here; most people like to assume that this problem is behind us, and that everyone is more mature these days. However, I guarantee that anyone who had serious problems with these issues growing up will tell you otherwise.

I'll tell a little about myself. Growing up, I never really felt like I fit in. I was never the one with a lot of friends, or the one anyone really wanted anything to do with. It never really bothered me until around the time I turned thirteen, though. This was after I had moved to England, and I was going to a small private school. Now, the thing about a private school is that it presents a very different environment from a school like Northwest. You know everything about everyone, including how everyone feels about everyone. In other words, it makes it a lot more obvious that you don't fit in.

I don't suppose that being the only American in the school helped, nor did the fact that I was socially awkward. Either way, they weren't exactly subtle about their desire to laugh at me, or to make fun. I didn't take well to it at first, but over time it got worse. I was made fun of for the way I talked, the way I looked, my shy-ness, or anything else people could think of. It wasn't just the "popular kids" or whatever, it was the people I sat with at lunch or in class, too.

The thing about all this is that it has lasting effects. They laughed at the way I talked, so I talked less, only being comfortable talking over the phone or social media for the longest time. They made fun of the way I looked, so I got it into my head that I looked stupid, and I hated my own face. They laughed at my seeming inability to be normal, so I retreated even farther from what was expected of me. In short, I developed a lot of habits and defense mechanisms that weren't exactly healthy or normal.

Now I got away from those people almost two years ago, but I still remember much of what I felt, and a lot of that stuff never goes away. If you force a belief onto a person for long enough, after a while, they'll start to believe it. If you tell someone they're not normal for long enough, they'll believe that too. The interesting thing is that most people don't realize how many people there are who feel like outcasts or who hate themselves, either because of stuff that used to happen to them, or because of stuff that still is happening. This goes on every day, and most people don't think twice about it.

The thing is, though, I'm not going to preach about how people need to think about what they say to people. Do they? Of course, but for a lot of people, it's too late to undo the damage. Some people are probably never going to be comfortable in situations with a lot of other people, or may be permanently affected in other areas. No, this purpose of this is to say something directly to those kids who were mistreated somehow.

Dudes, first of all, there's nothing wrong with you. No matter how society makes you feel. One of the biggest things about being a misfit is the lack of self-respect, and I'm telling you that you have every reason to not only deserve your own respect, but everyone else's too. Being different is something to be celebrated. As Jonathan Davis, lead singer of Korn, put it, "You laugh at me because I'm different. I laugh at you because you're all the same." It may be easy to say and hard to do, but this is a great way to look at life. Who cares what others think? I know you do, but you shouldn't. People are going to mistreat you everywhere you go, and that's because we live in a pretty messed up world. Not everyone will respect you, or treat you right, but if you learn to respect yourself you'll be able to cope with it better. And believe it or not, you probably have some really likable qualities, if you stop for a minute and look for them.

Second, make the most of what you have and don't give up. No matter what argument you could possibly give me, (and I've heard many) there is always something in your life that is worth living for. It may be hard, but focus on something that you can work for, and do it. It may be a talent you have, or a dream you have and want to pursue, or a relationship with a person that is valuable to you. It's easy to overlook things like this, but often what you take for granted that can be the most valuable thing you could ever use. So don't tell yourself you can't do it, or that you have nothing. No matter what it takes, keep moving in whatever direction you can, as long as you don't stop. Listen to empowering music, draw something, sing a song, write a story, talk to a friend, laugh, whatever gets you through it. Just never give up. You'll be glad you didn't, someday.

And last, just stay true to yourself. As corny as it sounds, don't let anyone tell you you're not beautiful, you're not worth it, you're not good for anything, you're worthless, you're unloved, or anything. People who say things like this are extremely out of line and usually aren't people you should be listening to anyway. Never doubt your own self worth, just because other people make you feel worthless. They don't understand you, and that's what makes you who you are. You're not the only outcast out there. Many people have felt invisible, walked on, mistreated, or worse. But being a loser is nothing to be ashamed of. Chances are, that's how most of your heroes started out. And who knows? If you play your cards right, maybe you'll grow up to be someone's hero too.

Students wonder: Who has the last say on snow days?

Melissa Frias
Staff Writer

For many students, the only time when a Monday is even remotely enjoyable is when it's been deemed a snow day. That extra day from the weekend is always a celebration, and it's typically used as an extra "work day" for students who have unfinished homework.

The only thing missing from a snow day happening rightnow... is the actual snow. Or in some cases early in the semester, whether or not the cold is severe enough to cancel some schools.

But who is the one who makes the judgment call on this important decision? Mr. Krupicka? Mr. Axt?

Superintendent Matt Fisher is the one who carries the burden of making the decision of whether or not students will be staying home, or making the cold journey to school during a frosty winter day.

This is a responsibility that Fisher takes extremely seriously.

"My first consideration is student safety... Unless the weather is really severe, most [parents] are going to have to work. This leaves children unsupervised or parents scrambling to find daycare... my experience tells me that on days when school is not in session, most students will tend to get in a vehicle and go to a friend's house or some other place where they will congregate. In most cases, these students will spend more time putting themselves at danger than they would traveling to and from school," Fisher said.

Safety is always top priority for Fisher before he considers making any decision. Fisher test drives the roads personally to ensure that they are safe enough for students and parents to drive through.

"I will spend time driving both the city streets and the country roads prior to making a decision. If I don't feel the roads are safe, we will not have school," Fisher said.

On days that roads pass Fisher's test, regardless of what he feels, he thinks parents should always have the last say in this decision. After all, they know their child better than anyone else and most of the parents will probably be the ones who are forced to brave the cold journey in taking their child to school.

"If we have winter driving conditions, but the roads are passable, then I am forced to weigh what road dangers may exist against the potential dangers that exist when we are not in session. If parents feel the conditions for transporting their child are not safe, we expect them to make that judgement call," Fisher said.

But of course, there are always the students who grumble about why other schools get cancelled when Northwest still has its doors open. Fisher gave a very matter of fact explanation to the reasoning behind this.

"While I do watch what other schools are doing and I usually consult with administrators from area schools, I also understand that every school has different situations. Recently, when making a decision on whether or not [to open school doors] on a very cold day, the focus my discussion with GIPS superintendent Dr. Winter was students who walk to school. Because they have a [high] number of students who walk, they called [school] off. Since we have almost no students who walk, we were able to have school," Fisher said.

Most students don't realize how Northwest and Grand Island Senior High have very different conditions that must be taken into consideration, besides just the number of kids.

Deciding whether or not school should be in session is a very important decision that Fisher has to make. A decision that he typically has to make alone.

"If I am out of town when a decision has to be made, the principals will make the decision. They typically consult with me, but they are the ones who know what the conditions are so they need to make the call. At times, I may consult with board members to get their input on what they are seeing where they live. But, the [final] decision rests with me," Fisher said.

This decision impacts all the students of Northwest. This is also a very stressful decison that, no matter which he decides to go with, his choice will receive criticism from students and parents.

"Making these decisions is one of my least favorite parts of my job!" Fisher said.

Parental Supervison Required

Get an inside look on students who have to face their parents everyday, whether they want to or not. Mrs. Mazour and her daughter Maddie, freshman, give us an inside look on what it's like to be a teenager in two different generations.

Mrs. Mazour

Maddie Mazour

What were you like in high school?
I went to high school in Axtell... population 500. Many of my friends and I were in band, choir, volleyball, basketball, track, and cheerleaders, because if we all didn't participate, we wouldn't have enough to actually have the group, or team.

What did you do for fun?
We would run around our little hometown and hide lawn ornaments in different peoples' lawns. We would go cruising down Central Avenue in Kearney, drive over Seven Hills, or just listen to the newest cassettes we had in our tape players, or we would go to three different fast food restaurants for food in Kearney: Burger King for the hamburgers, McDonald's for french fries, and Wendy's for the Frosties so we could dunk our french fries in them!

What do you think your mom was like in high school?
I bet she was pretty crazy and got in trouble sometimes.

What do you do for fun?
I hang out with my friends, play sports, or listen to One Direction in my free time.

Is being a teenager as fun as you thought it would be?
No, I thought it would be better. It's not fun with all the homework and stress that comes along with it.

Angelica Carlini
Ads Manager

Want to spread some Valentine love?

Student Council is selling Lots of Love (LOL) Bags (formerly known as Val-O-Grams) through February 13th. They will be delivered Monday, February 17th. They can be purchased from any Student Council member or in Mrs. McNeel's room for $1.

Ask Bon Bon <3

Q: My little sister still believes in the tooth fairy. Should I tell her the truth?
- Pixiedust

A: Let her dream; she's still young. She should be able to believe in whatever she wants. An imagination is one of the most important things that a child could have. It lets their mind explore many different things, and no child would want that ruined.

Q: I have a crush on my best friend's boyfriend. He kissed me the other day, so it's obvious that he doesn't want to be with her. Should I just forget our friendship and be with this guy? I like him... a lot.
- What do I do?

A: I think that you need to take a class on how to be a good friend. If you're so willing to give up your "Best Friend" over a guy, who would clearly cheat on you as well, then she obviously isn't your best friend. You need to put yourself in her shoes. Would you want someone to do that to you? I don't think so.

Q: I have a boyfriend, but I may have feelings for my ex, that now has a girlfriend, which is one of my best friends. What should I do?
- Confused Lover

A: You need to accept the fact that he is taken, and know that if you try for him again, you could lose a close friend. Let your friend be happy. It'll take time before you get over him. You just have to be patient.

Q: I have someone who bullies me. Should I smack talk him back or turn him in?
- Sick of the Abuse

A: If you are getting bullied, you definitely need to go to an adult or talk to a friend. No one should have to go through this alone. Maybe then, you could go to the principal and figure more of it out.

Q: Who is Bon Bon?
- Desperate

A: Well, this is such a lovely question. I suppose I could answer it for you. Bon Bon is most likely a sophomore, or a junior hmmmm... or maybe even a senior! Bon Bon could have brown hair, or maybe even black hair, or blonde! I don't even know if I'm Bon Bon. Bon Bon could be the person right next to you, or in front of you. Bon Bon could be the monsters under your bed at night. No, I'm totally kidding. Bon Bon is a secret, and that is the whole point of the name; to hide the person that uses Bon Bon as their alter-ego. Now if you'd like, you can take the hints that I gave you and try to figure it out. Or, you could save a lot of your time and just leave Bon Bon as the mystery that he.... or she... is.

Love you all,
BonBon

Memes bring people together with common pop culture references

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Staff Writer

A meme is "an idea, behavior, or style that spreads from person to person within a culture." A meme acts as a unit for carrying cultural ideas, symbols, or practices that can be transmitted from one mind to another through writing, speech, gestures, rituals, or other imitable phenomena. Supporters of the concept regard memes as cultural analogues to genes in that they self-replicate, mutate, and respond to selective pressures.

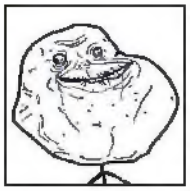
Slender Man, Trollface, Doge, Forever Alone; these are just a few of the ever popular trending memes.

Slender Man is one of Creepypasta's most popular icons. Slender Man is an alleged paranormal figure that has supposedly been in existence for centuries, covering all around the world. Slender Man appears to be like a man with extremely long, slender arms and legs. He also appears to have around four or eight long, black tentacles that protrude from his back. Although different photographs and enthusiasts disagree on this fact, and it is theorized that he can 'contract' these tentacles at will. He is described as wearing a black suit, and as the name suggests, appears very thin and able to stretch his limbs and torso to unhuman lengths in order to induce fear and ensnare his prey. Once his arms are outstretched, his victims are put into something of a hypnotized state, where they are utterly helpless to stop themselves from walking into them. Whether he absorbs, kills, or merely takes his victims to an undisclosed location or dimension is unknown as there are never any bodies or evidence left behind in his wake for us to know.

Trollface is a rage comic character wearing a mischievous smile that is meant to represent the facial expression of an Internet troll. The image is most commonly used to portray a character as a troll in rage comics, or alternatively, to identify oneself or another participant as such in online discussions.

Doge is a slang term for "dog" that is primarily associated with pictures of Shiba Inus (nicknamed "Shibe") and internal monologue captions on Tumblr. These photos usually have been photoshopped to change the dog's face or captioned with interior monologues in Comic Sans font.

Forever Alone is an exploitable rage comic character that is used to express loneliness and disappointment with life. Forever Alone is considered one of the first major rage comic spin-off characters to be created after the original Rage Guy, which first sprang up on 4chan in 2009.



Memes are becoming more populous each day with a new one from different social media such as Tumblr, 4chan, Reddit, etc. There are plenty more than just the four listed above. There is even a website dedicated to all of them called "Know Your Meme" at *knowyourmeme.com* to learn more.

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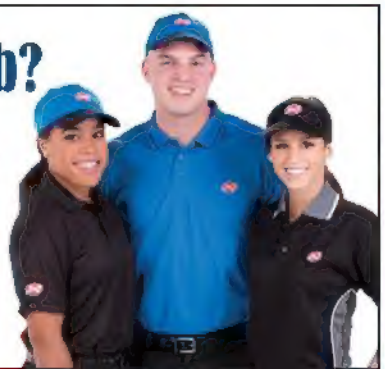

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